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BOROUGH OF

STAMFORD

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the Health of the Borough

for the year

1956

BY THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO WHICH IS ADDED THE  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

Senior Public Health  
Inspector



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## BOROUGH OF STAMFORD

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### HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor G. W. Gray (Chairman)

The Mayor

Councillor E. S. S. Bowman, O.B.E., J.P. (Vice—Chairman)

Alderman W. J. Aughton

Councillor L. Large

Councillor Mrs. G. M. Boyfield

Councillor J. W. L. Whincup

Councillor E. E. Betts

Councillor H. Smith

Councillor F. J. McIntosh

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### HOUSING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Councillor P. Bullard (Chairman)

The Mayor

Alderman G. C. Swanson (Vice-Chairman)

Alderman W. J. Aughton

Councillor L. Large

Councillor Mrs. G. M. Boyfield

Councillor L. J. Connor

Councillor A. W. P. Liddle

Councillor H. Smith

Councillor B. A. Munton

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### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

#### **Medical Officer of Health :**

H. ELLIS SMITH, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

#### **Senior Public Health Inspector :**

L. J. ROLL, A.R. San. I., Cert. S.I.B.

#### **Additional Public Health Inspector :**

A. R. BURT, A.R. San. I., Cert. S.I.B.

# BOROUGH OF STAMFORD

## ANNUAL REPORT

Town Hall,  
STAMFORD.  
May, 1956.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Stamford.

Councillor Mrs. Boyfield and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my third Annual Report on the Vital Statistics, Health and Sanitary conditions of the Borough.

The Birth Rate at 15.61 approximates closely to the Rate for England and Wales as a whole at 15.7.

The Death Rate of 10.29 is lower than the England and Wales figure of 11.7. This however is after use has been made of the comparability factor which lowers the Crude Death Rate by over five points, which indicates the preponderance of those in the Older Age Categories in our population. Another side light on this is the fact that total deaths exceeded the total Live Births by four.

For the second year in succession the Infantile Mortality Rate in England and Wales was the lowest previously recorded, being 23.8 per 1,000 live births. The Borough figure was near to this at 23.14.

Apart from Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever the incidence of Infectious Disease was relatively low during the year and the general health of the community was good.

There was no case of Diphtheria, making eleven years of freedom from this scourge of former times. A generation of young mothers is now growing up who have never come into contact with this foe and so it is not surprising that more of them appear interested in obtaining protection against whooping cough for their infants—a disease which they do know—than for diphtheria, which they do not. It is an understandable but illogical reaction to this decade of immunity. Incidentally, it is a cogent argument for the use of an immunising agent which simultaneously gives protection against Whooping Cough and Diphtheria; and to this could be added Tetanus also for the added safety factor which it would bestow.

This year has been noteworthy for the commencement in this country of vaccination against Poliomyelitis. The pilot scheme was started in May and two in the chosen age category were vaccinated in the Borough. It is to be hoped that it may soon be available to very many more than has so far been possible.



Diseases of the Cardio Vascular System register as the principal causes of death amounting to 92. Of these more than a third (33) were due to Coronary Thrombosis.

The Registrar General's Statistical review for 1955 reveals that over the country as a whole, deaths from Coronary disease in that year were 50 per cent. more than in 1949. Many factors may play a part in the increased incidence. One may be the increased strains and stresses of modern life, the inability to relax and the absence of tranquility of mind which seem to be the attributes of this Day and Age. Another factor is the effect of diet. There is a strong evidence that a diet high in animal fats—fat meat, fat pork, fat bacon and butter tends to cause hardening of the arterial walls and its handmaiden coronary disease. Peoples who consume small quantities of these and where fish is a more staple article of diet, such as the Japanese and the Eskimos, have the lowest incidence in the world of coronary troubles. It would seem that Jack Spratt is in a more favourable position compared with his wife in this respect, but a well balanced diet is the best of all.

Malignant growths accounted for 29 deaths and of these five were due to carcinoma of the lung or bronchus. Is the answer to this latter problem the answer to atmospheric pollution in general and tobacco smoke in particular? The evidence that the answer is YES is difficult to refute.

The number of houses built by both the Local Authority and by Private Enterprise were down on the previous year. In the former case this was inevitable owing to the virtual standstill which occurred at the close of the previous year, due to the lack of the necessary authority to proceed. The need for new houses continues unabated with the twofold demands from an increased list of Housing applicants on the one hand and for re-housing those in Slum Clearance properties on the other. Money is dear but the cumulative misery of those who lack homes or are living in insanitary homes must be weighed against this.

No review of this nature would be complete without a mention of the elderly Person living alone or the Old Couple, who, with failing physical and mental resources, yet retain their staunch independence. While I applaud this attitude in itself, it is pitiable in some instances to see the slow decline in their physical hygiene and aesthetic standards and it is difficult to help them. They are not physically ill enough to be a hospital responsibility nor are they suitable or willing for Residential accommodation provided by the Welfare Authority even if this were available for them.

It is a problem compounded of the greatly increased expectation of life, the smaller family with relatively fewer of the young to look after the old and some weakening in the

sense of responsibility within the family unit. It is a problem which will remain for the foreseeable future with population trends what they are. It seems to me that the answer lies in the Grouped Old People's Bungalow system with a warden-in-charge, where a delicate balance between independence and help can be held.

The Municipal Slaughterhouse serves the town well—and others further afield. Were the standard there universal throughout the land, no nation would have justification for rejecting this country's meat for their troops in Europe, on the ground of its lack of hygienic integrity.

The Sanitary Inspector is dead. Long live the Health Inspector. His new designation is much more indicative of the part which he must play in safeguarding the community's health in all its many facets and in marrying the Statute Book to the problems and needs of the individual. What a spate of Medico-Social legislation there has been in the past 20 years. His is a formidable, challenging and so worthwhile task.

The town's pigeons are a persistent nuisance and the echo of this problem has been heard repeatedly in the Council Chamber. It occurs to me that were they not fed by well meaning persons and loose food was not left lying about, the attractions of urban life might compare less favourably with those of the adjoining rural areas.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge with deep gratitude the great understanding, interest and help shown by the members of the Council and in particular the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, in all aspects of the work. I wish to thank my colleagues on the staff for their unfailing co-operation and support and finally, Dr. Anley Hawes for standing by for me when I have been away.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,  
H. ELLIS SMITH.

**BOROUGH OF STAMFORD  
STATISTICS**

Area	...	...	...	...	...	1918 acres
Population (Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	10899
Population (Registrar General's estimate						
31.12.56	...	...	...	...	...	11410
Rateable Value at 31.12.56			...	...		£148017
Product of Penny Rate (estimated)	...			...		£560
Number of inhabited houses from rate book						
at 31.12.56	...	...	...	...	...	3590

**VITAL STATISTICS**

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1956  
Note : Birth and Death Rates.  
As the age and sex distribution of the population in



different areas materially affects both the Birth and Death Rates of these areas, comparability factors allowing for this are issued by the Registrar General for each Local Government Unit. These factors may be used for calculating what are termed in this Report as "Nett" rates and fairer comparisons are obtained if the latter are used when comparing rates with those of any other area (when these have been similarly adjusted) or with the rates for the Country as a whole.

These factors for Births and Deaths in respect of Stamford are 1.03 and 0.59 respectively. The corresponding figure when multiplied by the Crude Rate (that is, for Births or deaths as the case may be) will give the Nett Rate.

			M.	F.	Total
LIVE BIRTHS	...	...	99	74	173
Legitimate	...	...	94	73	167
Illegitimate	...	...	5	1	6
CRUDE live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population					15.16
NETT live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population					16.61
Rate for England and Wales			...	...	15.7
			M.	F.	Total
STILL BIRTH	...	...	1	4	5
Legitimate	...	...	1	4	5
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
Still Birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...			28.09
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	23.0
			M.	F.	Total
DEATHS					
Number of Deaths	...	...	111	68	179
CRUDE death rate per 1,000 estimated population	...				17.44
NETT death rate per 1,000 estimated population	...				10.29
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	11.7
INFANTILE MORTALITY (i.e. Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age).			M.	F.	Total
Number of Deaths	...	...	3	1	4
Legitimate	...	...	2	1	3
Illegitimate	...	...	1	—	1
Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	23.14
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	23.8*

Three of these took place during the neo-natal period, i.e. under four weeks of age.

\*Lowest ever recorded.

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age :—

Year	No of deaths under 1 year of age
1951	3
1952	3
1953	4
1954	5
1955	5
1956	4

MATERNAL MORTALITY (i.e. Deaths due to Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion).

NIL.

# MARRIAGES SOLEMNISED IN THE BOROUGH OF STAMFORD

1953	...	...	88
1954	...	...	94
1955	...	...	78
1956	...	...	85

## INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES, INJURIES and CAUSES OF DEATHS

							Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	
Tuberculosis (Other forms)	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	2	
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	7	
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	5	
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	3	3	
Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	7	6	13	
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	...	8	11	19	
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	...	...	26	7	33	
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	6	—	6	
Other Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	14	5	19	
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	7	8	15	
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	7	9	16	
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	7	1	8	
Other Diseases Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	3	
Pregnancy: Childbirth and Abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	
Congenital Malformation...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	3	
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	7	6	13	
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	
All other Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	
Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	
Total						...	111	68	179

Figures as supplied by the Registrar General.

# NET DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

	Under 1 Week	1—2 Weeks	2—3 Weeks	3—4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1—3 Months	3—6 Months	6—9 Months	9—12 Months	Total under 1 Year
Premature Birth, Malformation &c.	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	4

FACTORY ACT, 1937 and 1948.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1956

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

	Number on Register	Inspec- tions	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	16	20	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	81	46	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	97	66	—	—

## 2. CASES ON WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	2	—	1	—
Total	1	2	—	1	—

## PART VIII.—OUTWORK

Nature of work	No. of Out-workers in August LIST required by Sec. 110 (1)	No. of Cases of default sending lists to Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel (making)	2	—	—	—	—	—



## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

### NURSING IN THE HOME

Under the County Council Scheme the Borough has one District Midwife.

Residence :

9, Adelaide Street, Stamford.

and one District Nurse

Residence:

18, Milner's Row, Stamford.

### HOME HELPS

Home Helps are provided for the town of Stamford and neighbouring villages in South Kesteven by the County Council from Headquarters at the Barn Hill Clinic, Stamford.

Application should be made to Barn Hill House, Stamford:

Monday and Wednesday afternoons 2—5 p.m.

Friday mornings 9.30—12.30 p.m.

### WELFARE FOODS

Welfare Foods can be obtained from the Barn Hill Clinic at the following times :

Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 12 noon

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. to 12 noon

### HEALTH VISITOR

Under the County Council Scheme one full time Health Visitor is employed for work in the Borough.

### AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Ambulance Service for the Borough is run by the St. John Ambulance Brigade under the County Council Scheme. There are three ambulances and one sitting case car. This service runs smoothly and efficiently.

### GENERAL HOSPITALS

Acute and Maternity admissions to :

Stamford and Rutland Hospital, Stamford, under No. 12 Area Peterborough Hospital Management Committee of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

Chronic and Long Term illness to :

St. George's Hospital, Stamford.

### ISOLATION HOSPITAL

Infectious cases are admitted to the Peterborough Isolation Hospital under the Peterborough Hospital Management Board.

## TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

### (a) PROVIDED BY KESTEVEN COUNTY COUNCIL

#### Child Welfare :

Weekly Clinic—Friday 2—4 p.m.  
Barn Hill House, Stamford.

#### Diphtheria Immunisation :

Diphtheria Immunisation clinics are held at Barn Hill House, Stamford, the first Wednesday of each month, 2—4 p.m.

Numbers immunised during the year :

Pre-school age—37	
School age—22	Total 144
Reinforcing Dose—85	

In addition 10 children living outside the Borough were immunised. 118 children were immunised by the General Practitioners, 101 Primary and 17 Reinforcing doses.

The staffing at the Barn Hill Immunisation Clinic has again been undertaken by members of the Lincs. 10 Detachment of the British Red Cross Society to whom I would like to express my sincere thanks.

#### School Clinic :

Barn Hill House, Stamford, providing Ophthalmic, Orthopaedic, Physiotherapy, Dental and Speech Clinics.

### (b) PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

#### Tuberculosis :

Weekly clinic—Tuesdays from 9.30 a.m.  
Fridays from 2 p.m.

Under Dr. G. Bernard Royce, Consulting Chest Physician, Peterborough Group of Hospitals.

#### Venereal Disease :

Clinics are held at the Out-Patient Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, under Dr. N. A. Ross.

Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays—  
5.30—7 p.m.  
Tuesdays—10.30—12 noon

#### Laboratory Facilities :

Bacteriological investigations are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, under Dr. D. H. Fulton.

This valuable service includes examination of milk and water samples and general bacterial investigations for both the General Practitioners and Public Health Service.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### Water :

The water supply of the Borough is provided by the Stamford Waterworks, owner, The Marquess of Exeter. Piped supplies are obtained from the following sources :

Bone Mill (Well)	}	Situated in the Soke of Peterborough on the high ground South of Stamford.
Leicester Road (Springs)		
Whitewater (Springs)		
Wothorpe (Springs)		
Northfields (Bore)	}	Situated in the Borough.
Ryhall Road (Bore)		

It was satisfactory in quantity and quality.

56 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, 31 of raw water and 25 of chlorinated. Details of these will be found in the Health Inspector's Report.

Chemical analysis showed the waters to be satisfactory for dietetic purposes. Not unnaturally having regard to the sources of supply they are hard.

The figures for total hardness of the various waters are:

Ryhall Road (No. 2) ...	36.7	}	parts per 100.000
Bone Mill ...	32.6		
Whitewater ...	35.9		
Wothorpe ...	40.2		
Northfields ...	41.1		

The approximate daily consumption of water within the Borough is 680,000 gallons. Allowing for industrial usage the domestic consumption rate approximates to 35 gallons per head per day.

### Sewage Disposal :

It is pleasing and a great relief to report that the proposed extensions to the Sewage Works have been approved and a start will soon be made on this very necessary work. A full sewer survey has been undertaken which will be a very valuable record both for now and for posterity. It still remains a mystery as to why the sewage judged by B.O.D. (Biological Oxygen Demand) should be so strong, being well above normal. In view of this it will be very interesting to see how the re-circulation system—which has been adopted as the modus operandi at the works—will deal with this fact.

The Public Baths were kept under supervision as regards water purity and chlorination and the staff there saw that the Rules for Health and Cleanliness were displayed and complied with. Blankets were made available on the premises for emergency use in the case of accidents.

# PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

## ANALYSIS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DEATHS THEREFROM

Notifications received during the year.

	Total Cases Notified 1956	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	Total Cases Notified 1955
Scarlet Fever ... ..	30	—	—	22
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	6	6	—	2
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	—	13
Food Poisoning ... ..	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ... ..	1	1	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis ... ..	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—	1
Encephalitis ... ..	—	—	—	1
Measles ... ..	—	—	—	218
Whooping Cough ... ..	84	—	—	20
	121	7	—	279
In addition 11 cases of Pneumonia were notified ... ..	11	—	—	14
Total	132	7	—	293

## AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Not known	Under 1 year	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—	1	1	3	2	17	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	30
Pneumonia ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	2	2	3	11
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	6
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	7	8	10	8	9	39	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	84
Total	1	8	9	11	11	11	56	6	2	5	2	2	3	2	3	132



The incidence of notifiable disease was lower than the previous year being 132 compared with 293 in 1955 and 73 in 1954. Of the 132, 84 were due to whooping cough.

Measles after its onslaught in 1955 was unrepresented and it is very gratifying that there were no cases of Polio-myelitis, Food Poisoning, Dysentery or Diphtheria.

The streptococcal group of diseases accounted for 37 of the cases and of these 30 were scarlet fever. Again this year in no instance was admission to hospital necessary for this disease and it occurred sporadically throughout the year.

Efficient control over the spread of infectious disease is dependent upon speedy notification.

The occupier in any household where a case of infectious disease has occurred is informed by letter of his obligations under the Public Health Act, 1936, in preventing the spread of the disease.

The memorandum on the Closure of Schools and exclu-sion from school on account of infectious illness, issued jointly by the Ministries of Education and Health steers a sensible course between unnecessary absence from school and due regard for other siblings. Scarlet Fever is now reduced to its proper status as a variant of streptococcal sore throat and school child contacts of such a case no longer need necessarily be excluded from school.

## TUBERCULOSIS

	Deaths during 1956				New Cases during 1956			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
5—15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15—25 „	—	—	—	—	—	*2	—	—
25—35 „	—	—	—	—	*1	—	—	—
35—45 „	—	—	—	—	*1	1	—	—
45—55 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 „	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Over 65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	—	—	—	3	3	1	1

\* 2 Male and 1 Female transfers.

8 new cases of tuberculosis were reported in 1955 (including 3 transfers).

Six new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year. This was two less than occurred in both 1955 and 1954. Of these, three were transfers in. There was one death compared with two in each of the two preceding years.

It is hoped that we will be hosts to the Mass Radiography Unit of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board early in the New Year, and preliminary arrangements were made for this. This will, after an interval of 4 years, provide an opportunity to discover whether there is any unknown nidus of infection in our midst.

In this relatively static community it should be possible to know all cases and their contacts and with the full follow up of them a potent method of control is in our hands. This is the constant aim of the Preventive Medical Service.

## HOUSING

### PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES

Statistics of new houses erected in the Borough during 1956 as supplied by the Housing Department :

1. BUILT BY LOCAL AUTHORITY :				
Traditional Brick Houses	...	...	...	26
Houses in course of erection at end of year	...	...	...	42

2. BUILT BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE :				
Traditional Brick Houses	...	...	...	7

Applicants for Council Houses as supplied by the Housing Department at December 1956 :

Effective Housing List	...	...	...	137
Tied and Service Tenants	...	...	...	36
Old Person Dwelling Applicants	...	...	...	65
Miscellaneous Applicants	...	...	...	18

The Council's Slum Clearance programme is one of 91 houses of which 50 were included in the scheme for the first five years. Up to 31st December 30 houses had been dealt with. The year saw the completion of the Britton's Court clearance area proposals and all 9 families satisfactorily rehoused. As the majority were elderly persons the newly constructed Old Person's Dwellings in St. Leonard's Street were ideal housing units to meet their needs, as also were the maisonettes in Willoughby Road.

A Clearance Area was declared in East Street/Elm Street, involving a further 12 houses together with the other buildings. Here again the majority of the residents are in the elderly group. This underlines the continuing need for the elderly of a small compact easily run domestic unit, preferably without stairs. It would also suit the married couple without children.

This is a demand which, in the light of vital statistics will remain for at least two generations and incidentally will

become progressively more acute as the century advances, hand in hand with a population consisting predominantly of the older age groups.

The Council resolved that the Medical Officer of Health should be authorised to decide which Council Houses should be offered to the individual tenants in the two Clearance Areas.

13 applications for Improvement Grants were received of which 7 were granted, 5 refused and one was not proceeded with.

The decision to install hot water systems in Pre-War Council Houses marked a great step forward in the provision of modern domestic facilities for all Council House tenants.

18 new caravan licences, apart from renewals were granted during the year. I repeat my plea of last year for new legislation in respect of Residential Caravans. The grounds on which a refusal of a licence on health standards can be successfully based are nebulous and certainly the minimum standards applicable to other forms of living accommodation are not relevant, particularly in respect of overcrowding. Application for a licence to station a residential caravan on a site may be received from a distance and the party actually arrive on the site before inspection of the caravan can be made. Under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, if a licence is not refused within 28 days of its receipt it is deemed to be granted, but under Town and Country Planning procedure the time for consideration is two months, and at the expiry of that period it is deemed not to be granted. There should surely be better integration between these two legal requirements and the anomalies rectified.

Another point of divergence between the two Acts is on the length of the "Exemption Periods" and it appears to me that the period of six weeks under Public Health Law is too long.

20 applications were received for priority re-housing on health grounds. In each case a personal investigation into the clinical and environment circumstances was made before a decision was arrived at. I would like to thank my colleagues in General Practice for their invaluable co-operation in this work.

Almshouses, with which the Borough is so well endowed have provided most valuable accommodation over the years. Some, alas with only one room for the purpose of living, eating, sleeping, food preparation and food storage, in sickness and health, and without indoor sanitation or water supplies, cannot be regarded as satisfactory accommodation for the Elderly in 1956.

As many of them are of architectural merit and historical



interest there arises inevitably a conflict between these facts and the practicability of converting them into housing units with modern amenities.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The Food Hygiene Regulations of 1955 came into force on 1st January. They gave new powers to those responsible for ensuring that a high standard of hygiene is maintained by all who handle, process or sell food for human consumption. Legislation in itself is not enough however. Equally important is the education of the Food Handler and the Customer alike, so that both are fully aware of the reasons behind the legislation and the sequelae which may follow contamination of food, through thoughtless lapses in hygiene, anywhere along the path from production to consumption.

Visits to every food premises with a tactful and friendly approach to the individual problems presented is the ideal but with the demands on the time available to the Health Inspectors all that we would like in this respect cannot be achieved at once.

In some instances the standards of food premises still leave room for improvement and much has yet to be accomplished. The public through its purchasing power has a most telling argument in insisting that the food they buy is treated with the hygienic courtesy which they and it deserve.

The Municipal Slaughterhouse run by a contractor on behalf of the Council has had further improvements effected during the year. It has continued to provide a fine service and the Goodwill of all concerned in its running has made for its harmonious working. 100 per cent. Meat Inspection is maintained. There are no private slaughterhouses in the Borough.

The premises from which Ice Cream is sold have been kept under supervision as also was the ice cream factory. Samples of ice cream in production and on sale were taken during the year.

It is worthy of note that during the year the Borough became a Specified Area under the Milk (Special Designations) Order. The retail milk can is now relegated to the Museum—a fit and proper last resting place. This marks another big step forward in ensuring a safe milk supply to all.

The chief Weights and Measures Inspector of the County Council, Mr. Hawley, took 33 samples under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Ten of these were of milk and two of fruit flavoured milk drinks.

One cautionary letter was sent in respect of an infringement in the case of one of the milk samples.

## FOOD POISONING.

No case occurred during 1956.



HEALTH EDUCATION.

Poster materials devised by the Central Council for Health Education and covering a wide variety of Health Topics were on display throughout the year. Propaganda material obtained from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents was also pressed into service in an endeavour to make both Home and Road safer places, each being equally lethal at the present time.

All are aware of the advantages of being and staying well and it has been the aim of the Health staffs of the Borough—and the County—to draw attention as occasion presented itself, to the pitfalls which may prevent this and signpoint the right road to their avoidance.

A course of Public Health lectures was given to the B.R.C.S. in Stamford and other topics which were the subject of lectures were the Food Hygiene Regulations, Accidents in the Home and Spastics.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT.

No action under Section 47 of this Act was deemed necessary during the year. However, in one case the resources of the Home Help Service, the Welfare Officer, the Health Visitor, the Old People's Welfare Committee, the Health Inspector and myself, though applied to the problem were unable to find a satisfactory answer and it looks as though recourse eventually will have to be had to this.

The Home Helps have rendered wonderful service in another instance to avoid the necessity for drastic action. Long may they flourish.

BOROUGH OF STAMFORD  
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL  
REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1956

TABULAR STATEMENT OF INSPECTIONS

Meat and Foods	...	...	...	...	348
Housing and Overcrowding			...	...	193
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	15
Infectious Diseases		...	...	...	69
Shops and Factories		...	...	...	66
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	71
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	61
TOTAL					823

NOTICES SERVED

	Issued	Complied with
Informal	27	20
Statutory	25	19

## MEAT INSPECTION

Once again the Municipal Abattoir has operated efficiently throughout the year. Though there was some loss of business owing to a local wholesaler becoming slaughtering contractor at a neighbouring establishment early in the year, by the end of the year slaughtering had almost reached its previous rate and in fact the Christmastide "kill" exceeded that of 1955. In all 9,488 animals were slaughtered during the year and all were inspected. The task of maintaining 100% inspection was rendered more arduous by my own absence from duty in the Spring owing to sickness and by the absence of any clerical assistance in this Office which placed a heavy burden on Mr. Burt. However by his devotion to duty and with the aid of some valued help from the late Mr. J. G. Clements, of South Kesteven R.D.C., the news of whose tragic and untimely death is to hand as this Report is drafted, complete inspection was achieved. Incidentally my last Annual Report owing to the above factors was compiled under unusual if not unique circumstances; there cannot be many of my colleagues who have drafted and typed their Annual Reports whilst undergoing treatment in a London Hospital !

Improvements at the Abattoir included new feeding troughs in the pig-styes and additional overhead hanging gear which enabled all beef and pork carcasses to be weighed and transferred from the slaughter-hall to the hanging room without being manhandled. The Health Committee approved the installation of a new boiler with steam jet for pig scalding operations. Negotiations for the purchase of the premises were completed during the year and I hope that the policy of gradual improvement of the premises will be continued as funds become available.

A considerable asset in the operation of the premises has been the provision privately of a modern cold store in premises adjoining the Abattoir and whose use is freely available on very reasonable terms to local butchers. In addition the same firm has converted some old premises into a modern butchers shop conforming with all requirements of the new Clean Food Regulations.

The amount of meat condemned shows some reduction as also does the percentage of carcasses affected with Tuberculosis. This is doubtless a result of the progress of the eradication scheme throughout the country. In addition to the meat dealt with at the Abattoir, two hindquarters of beef slaughtered elsewhere, together with 28 lbs. of imported ox kidney and 6 lbs. of imported lambs livers were dealt with in the local butchers' shops. The total weight of all meat condemned during the year amounted to 15,028 lbs. All condemned meat is stained with Naphthalene Green and sold to a firm of chemical manure manufacturers.

TABLE 1.

	CATTLE		CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS
	exclg. Cows	Cows			
No. of Animals Inspected	1014	16	3	4181	4274
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
No. of whole carcasses and offals condemned...	2	1	—	—	6
No. of carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	86	—	—	—	337
Percentage of animals affected with T.B. ...	8.6%	6.2%	—	—	8.02%
DISEASES OTHER THAN T.B.					
No. of whole carcasses and offals condemned...	3	—	—	5	3
No. of carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	94	1	—	56	466
Percentage of animals with diseases other than T.B. ... ..	9.5%	6.2%	—	1.4%	10.95%

No case of Cysticercus Bovis was observed during the year.

TABLE 2.

DETAILS OF CONDEMNED MEAT SHOWN IN TABLE 1

Meat Condemned	Beef	Mutton	Pork	Veal
Whole Carcasses and Offals ...	6	5	9	—
Heads ... ..	37	2	207	—
Tongues ... ..	37	2	207	—
Pairs of Lungs ... ..	74	27	367	—
Livers ... ..	81	20	44	—
Plucks (complete) ... ..	—	5	41	—
Fats (Mesenteric) ... ..	15	—	168	—
Spleens ... ..	5	—	2	—
Hearts ... ..	—	4	85	—
Kidneys ... ..	2	—	23	—
Udders ... ..	—	—	—	—
Tripes ... ..	—	—	—	—
Forequarters (whole) ...	2	—	—	—
Hindquarters (whole) ...	—	—	—	—
Other parts of Carcasses ...	7	15	20	—



## CLEAN FOOD REGULATIONS

In the main the co-operation of the Food Trades has been good though the old buildings and congested nature of the town centre has made compliance with the strict letter of the law difficult in some cases. However the best methods are not always found in the best premises and given the will to co-operate good results are sometimes found under adverse conditions. Informal action in four cases produced immediate compliance in two premises while the remaining two were subsequently the subject of formal notice under the Regulations.

Conditions in the open Market caused some concern but as a result of informal action almost all the stallholders are now doing their best to fulfil their obligations. A piped water supply has been made available for the use of the stallholders.

### OTHER FOODSTUFFS

The following foodstuffs other than butchers' meat have also been condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

#### MEAT PRODUCTS

Corned Beef	32 tins	Sausages	1 tin
Chicken and Ham Roll	1 tin	Stewed Steak	5 tins
Ham	22 tins	Tongue, Ox	4 „
Luncheon Meat	6 „	Veal, Jellied	1 tin

#### FISH

Bloaters and Herrings	84 lbs.	Pilchards	3 tins
Brisling	1 tin	Haddock, smoked	14 lbs.
Crab	1 „	Salmon	8 „

#### FRUIT AND PRESERVES

Apricots	7 tins	Pears	4 tins
Fruit Salad	1 „	Pineapple	33 „
Honey	1 jar	Strawberries	1 tin
Oranges	2 tins	Tomatoes	295 tins
Peaches	15 „		

#### VEGETABLES

Beans	1 tin	Red Cabbage	6 jars
Peas	12 tins	Vegetable Salad	1 tin

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Cake	2 lbs.	Milk, Evaporated	26 tins
Cheese	42 „	Porridge Oats	24 pkts.
Cheese (processed)	16 boxes		

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### ICE CREAM

For the first time for some years there were no additions to the number of premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream. Four samples taken and submitted to the Methylene Blue test were reported as : Grade 1—one sample, Grade 3—one sample, Grade 4—two samples.

### MILK AND DAIRIES

There were no changes in the Register of Distributors



during the year nor in the Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1954. One sample from the only dairy herd in the town was taken and submitted for biological examination for presence of Tubercle Bacilli and was reported negative.

In October the Borough became a Specified Area in which the sale of undesignated milk is now prohibited; this is a very satisfactory state of affairs. Enforcement of this Order lies with the County Authority.

### WATER SUPPLIES

The various sources supplying the Borough were kept under supervision and the results of the samples taken from such sources are given in the annexed Table. In addition two samples from the well at St. George's were taken and an unchlorinated sample was reported as unsatisfactory but a sample of the chlorinated water was satisfactory. A sample of water from a mineral water factory was reported as satisfactory.

A sample of chlorinated water from the local Swimming Bath was reported as satisfactory.

Type of Water	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory
Chlorinated	26	25	—	—
Unchlorinated	33	25	1	5

1 sample of chlorinated and 2 samples of unchlorinated water were not reported upon as a result of laboratory accidents.

### PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

One application for Licence to keep a Pet Shop was received and approved during the year and the premises have been kept under observation.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES, DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Enquiries have been made in connection with 30 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year. Appropriate measures of disinfection were carried out and similar action was taken at one house after the removal of a case of Tuberculosis to Hospital.

No action has been necessary in respect of infestation by bugs, but two houses were disinfested from fleas.

### PRESERVED FOOD, ETC., FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

The number of registered premises under the above Act remains unchanged at 42.

### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936, SEC. 269

26 applications for Licences to station moveable dwellings on sites, within the Borough were received and ap-

proved. One application was refused. During the year the Council provided six additional sites on the Empingham Road Caravan Site.

### RAG FLOCK ACT 1951

The single registration of premises under this Act remains in force.

### HOUSING INSPECTION

Progress has been maintained during the year. A scheme for the purchase by the Council and reconditioning of the west side of Lumby's Terrace has been prepared while the whole of the Britton's Court area inhabitants were re-housed and the work of clearance commenced before formal approval of the Order by agreement with the owner. I wish such progress were possible in all cases! Preparatory work was completed in respect of the next proposed Clearance Area in East Street and Elm Street. In addition tenants of 14 individual unfit houses were re-housed and the premises dealt with by Demolition or Closing Orders.

1 Certificate of Disrepair was cancelled, the required work having been executed.

12 houses were inspected in respect of applications for Improvement Grant. 8 of these cases were recommended for grant and the remaining 4 cases refused as the conditions for grant were not complied with in various respects.

No. of Visits	...	...	...	...	...	193
No. of Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	105
No. of Houses inspected and recorded	...	...	...	...	...	73
No. of Visits made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	161
No. of Houses unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	24
No. of Houses not in all respects fit	...	...	...	...	...	39

### REMEDY OF DEFECTS

No. of Houses dealt with in Clearance Areas and vacated	10
No. of Houses dealt with by Demolition Orders and vacated	6
No. of Houses closed by Orders under Local Gov. Act, 1953	7
No. of Houses closed by undertakings under Housing Act, 1936	1
No. of Houses under licence for temporary occupation	1
No. of cases of Statutory Overcrowding	Nil
No. of Houses made fit as a result of Notices under Sec. 9 Housing Act, 1936	2

### PROCEEDING UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

No. of Houses made fit as a result of Notices under Sec. 93 Public Health Act, 1936	2
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L. J. ROLL,

June, 1957.

Senior Public Health Inspector.



